What is claimed is:

1. A method for evaluating and treating a patient experiencing a hypertensive crisis comprising:

   a. obtaining a baseline laboratory profile comprising collecting blood from the patient to determine the patient's baseline plasma renin activity (PRA) level;

   b. (i) administering at least one anti-renin drug, and if the patient's blood pressure does not respond after (b)(i),

   (ii) administering at least one anti-volume drug;

   c. establishing a tentative categorical diagnosis based on the response in steps b(i) and/or b(ii); and

   d. confirming the categorical diagnosis after obtaining the results of the patient's baseline PRA level.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the laboratory profile further comprises obtaining a CBC.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the laboratory profile further comprises obtaining a plasma catecholamine profile and an electrolyte profile.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the laboratory profile further comprises obtaining the results of an ECG and an echocardiogram.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a drug which allows quantifunction of a neural factor.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of phentolamine, esprodol, and labetalol, or any combination thereof.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the anti-renin drug is selected from the group consisting of captopril and enlaprilet or a combination thereof.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the anti-volume drug is furosemide.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the neural factor is selected from the group comprising pheochromocytoma, cocaine abuse, and clonodine withdrawal.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a non-specific vasodilator.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the non-specific vasodilator is selected from the group consisting of nicardipine, verapamil, nitroprusside, nitroglycerin, hydralazine, diazaoxide, or any combination thereof.

12. A method of evaluating and treating a patient experiencing a hypertensive crisis caused by a bleeding state, said method comprising:

    a. obtaining a baseline laboratory profile comprising:

        (1) collecting blood from the patient to determine the patient's baseline PRA level; and

        (2) performing at least one diagnostic test which suggest the presence of a bleeding state;

    b. administering a beta blocker; and

    c. confirming the diagnosis of the bleeding state by obtaining PRA results consistent with said diagnosis.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the bleeding state is selected from the group consisting of cerebral dissection, aortic dissection, and acute myocardial infarction.